

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet(s) of drawing(s) includes changes to Figs. 2a and 3b.

Attachments: Replacement Sheets: Two sheets - Figs. 2a and 3b
 Annotated Sheets showing changes: Two sheets - Figs. 2a and 3b

REMARKS

Enclosed are corrections to FIGS. 2a and 3b and Replacement Drawings incorporating these corrections. Also enclosed is an amended Abstract in compliance with M.P.E.P. §608.01(b).

In response to the above Office Action, the claims have been amended to delete reference numerals, to avoid improper multiple dependency, to avoid the rejection of the claims under §112, second paragraph and to more clearly claim applicant's invention and distinguish it from the cited prior art. New claims 30-32 have been added to round out the scope of protection to which applicant believes he is entitled.

Independent claims 1 and 16 have been amended to delete reference to the agricultural sprayer so that the claims are just directed to a filter device. Withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under §112, second paragraph is therefore requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-19 and 21-24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) for being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,476,251 to Kudlaty. Claims 27-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being obvious over Kudlaty in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,052,307 to Humbert. While the Examiner did not consider claims 25 and 26 in view of improper multiple dependency, it is noted that nothing was said about claim 20 in the rejections of the claims. However, it is listed as being "rejected" in the Office Action Summary, so presumably the Examiner meant to include it either in the §102(b) or §103(a) rejection.

Claim 1 has been amended for clarity and to recite "wherein movement of said lid causes movement of said valve structure between said first position and said second position, and wherein said lid is releasable from said casing only when said valve

structure is in said second position and said liquid inlet is blocked by said valve structure.” Support for this can be found on page 11, line 24 to page 12, line 9.

In Kudlaty, rotation of cap 50 and the internal housing 10 surrounding filter element 36 may move the valve structure between closed and open positions, but the cap 50 is removable simply by removing the fasteners 50a, “which hold the cap on the housing” (column 4, lines 19-21) regardless of the position of the valve structure.

The claimed invention has the advantage of preventing inadvertent removal of the lid without blocking the inlet and allowing high pressure liquid to escape the device.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 1 and claims 2-7 dependent therefrom cannot be considered to be anticipated by Kudlaty.

Claims 8 and 9 have been made dependent on claim 1 and as a result claims 10-15 and 28 have been cancelled. Claim 8 now includes a gripping handle on the lid. Support for this can be found on page 11, line 16 and element 62 in FIG. 1a. Thus it is submitted claims 8 and 9 are also not anticipated by Kudlaty.

New claim 31, dependent on claim 9, further defines the coupling means of claim 9. Support for this can be found in FIGS. 3a and b and the description of these elements. Claim 31 is also therefore not anticipated by Kudlaty.

Claim 16 has been amended for clarity and to recite that “wherein said lid is coupled to said filter element and said filter element is coupled to said valve structure so that when said lid is rotated about said axis, said valve structure is rotated about said axis between said first position and said second position by said filter element.”

Support for this can be found in claim 21 which has been amended to include a gripping handle on the lid as in claim 8.

As noted above, Kudlaty moves the valve structure by rotation of cap 50 through the internal housing 10. The filter element 36 merely sits on the abutment surface 33 of sleeve 32 of the valve structure. It is not coupled to it. More significantly, the valve structure is not rotated between its first and second position "by said filter element." This is clearly shown in, for example, FIG. 2a and b. Note that the only connection between the lid 60 and the valve structure 30 is the filter element 100.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 16 and claims 17-26 and 32/16 dependent therefrom cannot be considered to be anticipated by Kudlaty. Claim 32/16 is similar to claim 31 discussed above.

New independent claim 30 also relates to a similar filter device as claimed in claims 1 and 16 and recites "means for removing said lid from said casing by rotation of said lid with respect to said casing" and "wherein rotation of said lid to remove the lid causes movement of said valve structure from said first position to said second position," i.e., the position where the liquid inlet is blocked. Support for this can be found in, for example, page 6, lines 1-7 and FIG. 1a where because of lugs 68 on lid 60 projecting into spirally extending slots 22 in the casing, the lid is removed from the casing by rotating it with respect to the casing. Also page 11, lines 27-30, where it discloses that when the lid is rotated, the valve structure rotates from the first to the second position where the inlet is closed.

In Kudlaty, no means are provided for removing the cap 50 by rotation nor does rotation of the lid "to remove the lid" cause movement of the valve to a closed position. Removal of the lid in Kudlaty is independent of the position of the valve. As discussed above, the claimed invention has the advantage of preventing inadvertent removal of

the lid without having blocked the liquid inlet and allowing liquid under pressure to be ejected from the device.

Accordingly, it is submitted that new claim 30 and claim 32/30 dependent therefrom is not anticipated by Kudlaty.

With respect to claims 27 and 29, Humbert may disclose what it is cited for, but since each of these claims depend from either 1 or 16, it is believed they are patentable for the same reason claims 1 and 16 are patentable as discussed above.

It is believed claims 1-9, 16-27, and 29-32 are in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: November 16, 2006

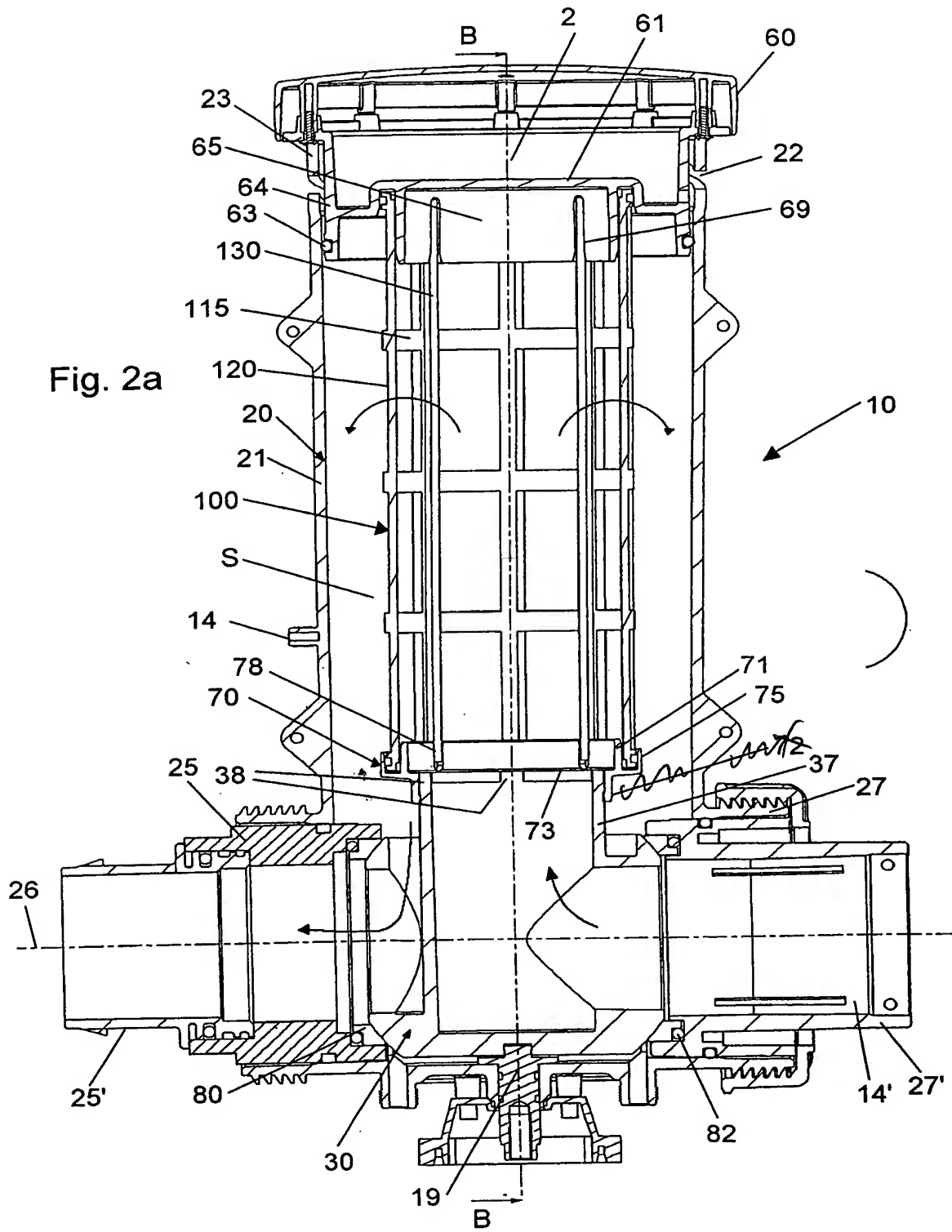
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Replacement Abstract

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ANNOTATED SHEET SHOWING CHANGES



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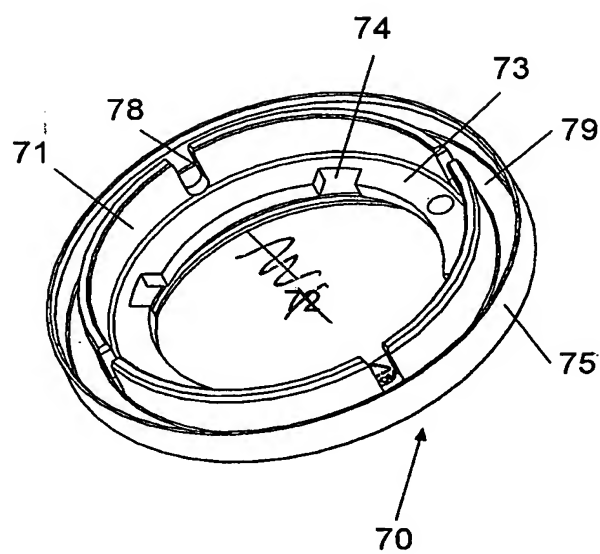


Fig. 3b